Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 11 December 2011

Taking Care Of Our Veterans

by Lindsey Lund, Communications Coordinator at Compass Housing Alliance

Cross and Crown Lutheran volunteers share a meal with the Veterans Center residents.

The Compass Veterans Center in Renton (located above Luther's Table) opened just over a year ago. By Veterans Day (November 11) 2010 all of the 58 apartments were occupied by veterans and veterans with families.

Since that time, 89 adults and 29 children have called the Center home.

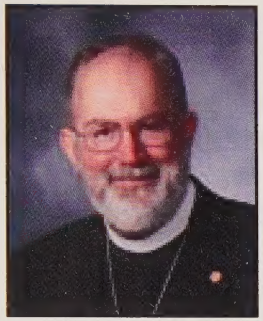
Our children's advocates are doing a terrific job creating fun programming for the kids. They have gone on field trips, created art, and hosted birthday and holiday parties. They have also had youth groups and churches visit to provide meals and lead activities.

Residents at the Veterans Center are building a strong community. They have organized their own weekly BINGO game which has been held consistently for more than 7 months. There is also a weekly women's group that does art and other activities.

PROCESSED
APR 1 1 2012
GTU LIBRARY

PROCESSED
APR 11 2012
GTU LIBRARY

A Word From The Bishop



The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 NRSV

As you read the Biblical passage that leads into this column I ask you to remember that this is the season of Advent, which is the season of preparation. The fact that there was no room in the inn is well known to us. We quickly create romanticized pictures of a clean and peaceful stable. The fact is that Mary and Joseph were homeless when Jesus was born.

I write this coming from the annual meeting of the denominational executives and the Governor's office in Olympia. The news on the economic front for this state is sobering. There will be more significant cuts in state spending. I am well aware that this synod has members on all sides of the political divides. I am not proposing a solution to the state budget woes.

I am looking at the reality that the cuts in services will impact many of the people who are already coming to your congregation for help. We should use this Advent to prepare for those who will be coming. This could be the homeless, the hungry or those who cannot afford health care. They will be coming and we have a long history of helping in a variety of ways.

Now is the time for congregations and ecumenical associations to begin the discussions on how the people of God will respond to our neighbors in need.

Each community is different and one size does not fit all. The fact is that we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit those imprisoned, even those

continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

imprisoned in their own bodies due to poor health.

The coming years will be difficult and we can argue about how we got here and how best to fix the problem. The fact is that those most affected by this situation will be coming to us. We are the keepers of the inn. Do we have room?

Advent Open House

The annual Synod Office Advent Open House will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8, at the synod office.

May the Birth of Him
Who Was Born in a
Manger Bring You
Blessings of Joy, Peace
Love and Hope in the
New Year and Always. Bishop Chris Boerger and Staff

Soundings *is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org
Deadline for copy for the December 2011 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, December 7
Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

Synod Staff:
The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop—buss@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Nancy Winder, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy —candidacy@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

Letter To The President On

Immigration Reform

November 1, 2011

Dear President Obama:

As the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, I write to lift up the support of our national church body for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

We are a church that belongs to Christ, and we believe God calls each of us by name. Therefore, the ELCA has repeatedly affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience of working with and on behalf of America's newcomers through our ministry with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA voted overwhelmingly in support of immigration reform and the DREAM Act. The churchwide assembly is the ELCA's highest legislative authority serving on behalf of 4.2 million baptized ELCA members.

The biblical call to hospitality also inspired Lutheran congregations across the country to discuss transforming communities into centers of hospitality through relationship building and advocacy. In addition, congregations are holding DREAM Act Sabbaths to lift up the experiences of undocumented youth and encourage broader public support for the legislation.

The need to overhaul the U.S. immigration system is becoming ever more urgent. In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, states have felt compelled to write their own immigration laws, which are often shortsighted and misguided. The ELCA needs your leadership. We urge you to continue to speak to Congress and the American public to take action on comprehensive

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

Letter To The President

immigration reform and the DREAM Act and to explore other compassionate policy reforms that advance the common good.

As a national church body, the ELCA -- our congregations, bishops, schools and millions of individual members -- continues to preach, teach, advocate and work with and on behalf of America's newcomers. This nation has achieved such greatness due to the resilience, labor and intellect of immigrants. We will roll up our sleeves and work tirelessly until this nation is once again a place of welcome and justice for newcomers.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Editor's Note: Two press releases regarding this issue were sent to the media in early November. To view these press releases visit www.elca.org.

Can You Sponsor A Meal?

Every Thursday evening the Lutheran campus ministry building (Covenant House) at the UW is buzzing with life and language. More than 40 scholars and students from mainland China gather together, talking in their native Mandarin but also growing in their use of English. Topics in the English classes are often related to the Bible and the Christian faith, which interest the scholars and students a great deal.

Would your women's group, men's group or youth group be willing to sponsor one Thursday meal? The groceries to feed between 40 and 50 people cost $80. If you can, please send a check, payable to the Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars, to: The Covenant House, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98105. You may call Zhenchuan Liu for more information at 206-524-7900.

Pre-Retirement Seminar

Are you making the right decisions to help achieve your retirement dreams?

If you're within 15 years of retirement, attend an ELCA Board of Pensions Pre-Retirement Seminar and explore issues that form the foundation of a healthy retirement.

The seminar will take place from 1 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 10 at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way.

If you stay overnight the cost is $81* per person and includes room, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and snacks. (Single rooms with single beds. All rooms have sinks; most rooms have half-baths and easy access to bathrooms and showers. Free wi-fi available throughout building.)

The cost for commuters is $38* per person and includes program, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and snacks.

To register contact Allison at swwsynod@plu.edu or call 253-535-8300. Mail payment to SWWA Synod Office, 420 121st St, Tacoma, WA 98444.

*After Wednesday, Jan. 11, there will be a $10 late fee added to the registration.

Co-sponsored by Southwestern Washington and Northwest Washington Synods of the ELCA.

Have You Signed Up?

Have you signed up for Soul Café?

Soul Café is a social networking site and is for members, congregations, synods and organizations of Region 1.

Communication across and within the six synods of Region 1 is the primary focus of *Soul Café*. This social networking site will allow us to share ideas and have on-line discussions within our region.

Learn more at www.soulcafe.org.

Congregation Treasurers

The Region 1 Financial Services Office (FSO) has notified the synods of the region that, as a cost-saving measure, they will not routinely print out a supply of remittance forms and mail them to your congregation. The form is now available for download on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org under Forms and Documents.

If your Treasurer would like to have the forms printed out, please let us know and we will send them to you.

The location of the FSO has also changed: the best address for sending in mission support and designated gifts is the 'lockbox' address at PO Box 94432, Seattle, WA 98124-6732.

Update

Lutheran Malaria Initiative

The ELCA has pledged $250,000 to support Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) anti-malaria work in Tanzania through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI).

Malaria is a devastating disease that kills nearly a million people a year, mostly children under age 5. Spread through the bites of infected mosquitoes, malaria is preventable and treatable. LMI is part of a global effort to end malaria deaths by 2015.

LWR works with its longtime partner, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), to educate people about prevention, symptoms and treatment of malaria

Since 2007, the project has reached more than 1.7 million people across 13 ELCT dioceses with critical information about prevention and treatment.

Editor's Note: At churches, house parties and pubs, Dianne Johnson tells the story of malaria in Africa. Dianne, an Associate in Minister at Lord of Life in Renton, is available to share information about malaria and two, low cost, high-impact strategies being used to prevent malaria. Contact her at dianne@lollc.org.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024

https://archive.org/details/soundings-nw-washington-synod_2011-12_27_11

Collecting Shoes

Have you donated your used shoes to Kent Lutheran in Kent?

Members at Kent are collecting used shoes to recycle and to help fund their community restoration project in South Sudan. They will be collecting shoes until late November and they need fifteen tons.

Working with a for-profit organization (ReRun Shoes) that supports micro-business in West Africa, the congregation will receive $12,000 from ReRun if they fill a cargo container full of shoes.

To learn more about this project or to find out where you can drop off shoes, visit Kent Lutheran's blog at http://klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com/p/shoe-drive.html

Peace!

A Soulful Christmas Celebration

Now in its 4th year, the *Soulful Christmas Celebrations* have become a North Seattle tradition and an audience holiday concert favorite.

This year's celebration will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle.

The program features gospel arrangements by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, Cora Jackson, and others including classic gospel arrangements, contemporary gospel favorites and plenty of Christmas Carols.

The concert is free and donations will be accepted for the Downtown Emergency Service Center which offers shelter and services to the most vulnerable people struggling with homelessness.

Reservations are not necessary. Early seating is recommended. Childcare and refreshments are available.

To learn more about the gospel choir visit www.phinneyridgegospelchoir.org.

Holden Youth Weekends 2012

The theme for the 2012 Holden Youth Weekends is *Keep Church Weird.*

The focus will be on the "countercultural" nature of the Christian faith. A wonderful musician/speaker is scheduled to be there all three weekends: Nate Hougue (rhymes with vogue) from the Twin Cities. His website is www.natehouge.com.

Weekend 1: May 19-21
Weekend 2: May 25-27
Weekend 3: May 27-29

Based on feedback, weekends 2 and 3 are back to back over the Memorial Day Weekend. More information is available at www.tlc.edu/holden.

Extravaganza 2012

The Extravaganza is an amazing annual four day conference that draws together 500 to 750 adults who work with youth in congregations of the ELCA. This is a time for renewal, education and networking. It is for the professional and the volunteer, and for all who share in the adventure we call youth and family ministry.

Extravaganza 2012 will be held from February 8 to 12 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Visit www.elcaymnet.org/comeandsee for more information.

2012 Youth Gathering

Registration for the *2012 ELCA Youth Gathering* opened on October 9 and will close once 39,000 have registered. To learn more, visit www.elca.org.gathering.

The Gathering will take place July 18 - 22 in New Orleans. The theme, *citizens with the saints*, is centered around Ephesians 2:14-20.

Back In New Orleans

Share A Coat

The coat rack at Mary's Place is empty! Women and children need warm coats and rain jackets (all sizes, but larger coats are especially helpful for layering).

Perhaps you already have cleaned your closets and have no coat to spare. Would you be able to volunteer an hour or two at Mary's Place? Share coffee and stories with the women, or volunteer to help with a mailing.

Mary's Place Day Center is a weekday program that provides a welcoming and accepting environment where homeless women and their children can build community, enrich their days and find resources to restore their lives.

Donations can be made between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. They are located at 314 Bell Street, Seattle, WA 98121; telephone 206-621-8474; email office@marysplaceseattle.org

The Turkey Trot

Enjoy a morning with your friends and neighbors, walking, running, strolling, skipping, jogging or skating, your way around Green Lake! All funds raised will benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Where: Green Lake Aqua Theater, Seattle
When: Friday, November 25
Schedule for the Day…
8:30 - 9:00 a.m. check in and Registration, located near Aqua Theatre. Turn in your sponsor sheet and donations.
9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Welcome all participants! Aqua Theatre
9:15 a.m. - Noon Join all of the turkeys as we make our way around Green Lake

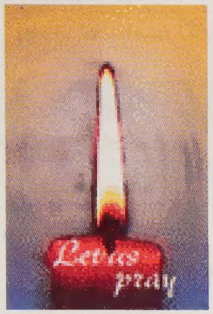
For more information visit www.turkeytrot4hunger.org.

Here 'n There

- **Members of Kent Lutheran in Kent** participated in this year's Crop Hunger Walk which has raised more than $13,000. H.O.M.E and Kent Community Supper will receive 25% and 75% goes to Church World Service.
- During November members at **University in Seattle** are serving lunch for Community Lunch on Capitol Hill every Friday. And, in December, members at **Central in Seattle** will be rolling up their sleeves to prepare and serve a good hot meal each Tuesday and Friday for the hungry. More than 200 impoverished and homeless people are fed twice a week through this program located at Central in Seattle.
- **Burlington in Burlington** is providing a soup and bread meal the last Thursday of each month. The meal is free to anyone.
- Members at **Central in Everett** are planning to provide food baskets for Everett families this holiday season. Last year they gifted 48 Thanksgiving baskets and 59 Christmas baskets. Members also were able to ship 50 quilts and 15 school kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Members at **Bethel of Shoreline** were able to send 37 quilts, 96 personal care kits and 102 school kits.
- Twice a year members of **Faith in Seattle** hold a food drive to restock the food shelves at the University District Food Bank with soups, stews, high protein foods, and canned fruit and vegetables.
- **Luther Memorial in Seattle** will host their first week as an overnight shelter for Mary's Place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6. The congregation will provide a safe place for 14 women and children to share an evening meal, do homework, relax, play games, read, sleep and have breakfast each day.
- On the first Sunday of every month members at **Gloria Dei in Mountake Terrace** bring offerings for a hungry world. The offering and/or staple food items are then delivered to Concern for Neighbors Food Bank in Mountak Terrace.

continued on page 14

Within Our Family



We Continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- **The Rev. Mary Bosell,** on disability
- **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- **The Rev. Jami Fecher,** pastor at Gift of Grace in Seattle
- **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- **The Rev. Donna Reilly Williams (ret.)**
- **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

We Pray For:

- **The family of the Rev. Kirby Unti,** pastor at St. Matthew in Renton. Pastor Kirby's father, William (Bill), passed away on October 12. Cards can be sent to Pastor Kirby and Kim Unti, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton WA 98056.
- **Joann Lindberg, mother of Chris Lindberg and mother-in-law of the Rev. Mary Lindberg, pastor at Immanuel in Seattle,** died in late October at her home in Illinois. Cards can be sent to The Rev. Mary and Chris Lindberg, 2846 NW 63rd St, Seattle, WA 98107.
- **Charlotte (Char) Engstrom, wife of the Rev. John Engstrom (ret.)**, passed away on November 4 in Minnesota after a long illness. The Memorial Thanksgiving For Life will be held at Hope Lutheran Church in Moose Lake. The Rev. Engstrom was pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Seattle from 1993-2005. Peace to her memory. Cards may be sent to: John Engstrom, PO Box 248, Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783-0248 or Hope Lutheran Church, 204 Elm Avenue, Moose Lake, MN 55767

continued on page 13

continued from page 12

Within Our Family

- **David Bielski, father of Megan Hogstad, Associate in Ministry,** On Leave from Call, had a pacemaker put in on Sunday morning, October 16, due to heart failure. He is now at home resting. Cards may be sent to: Megan and Pastor Chris Hogstad, Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, 2717 - 180 St SE, Bothell WA 98012-66033.
- **Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry and Holden Village Development Director,** is recovering from emergency surgery at Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton. Cards can be sent to: Larry and Louise Johnson, PO Box 1326, Allyn, WA 98524.
- **The Rev. Brian Beistel (ret.)** has moved into an adult family home where he can receive the assistance he needs. Brian welcomes your prayers for his care. His sister says that he welcomes phone calls and visits from those he knows; she recommends a phone call first (206-362-2527). Cards may be sent to Brian at his sister's address: 2716 - 169th St SE, Bothell WA 98012.

Position Available

Coord. Intergenerational Ministries

Central Lutheran Church, a vibrant, diverse and progressive congregation located in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, has an immediate opening for a Coordinator of Intergenerational Ministries.

This full-time position's responsibilities are divided between three major areas: faith formation, volunteer coordination and outreach coordination. For more information, please see the posting on our website at www.lutheransnw.org/jobs or visit www.loveiscentral@org for a detailed job description.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Lydia Wittman Grebe	Lutheran Church of St. Mark, Glastonbury, Conn	10/1/2011
Joel Langholz	Our Saviour's, Bellingham	12/7/2011
Krista Mendoza	Bethany Lutheran, Elmira NY	10/15/2011
Installations		
Joanne E Engquist	Gethsemane, Seattle	10/30/2011
Caralyn Holmquist	Morning Star, Monroe	11/20/2011
Joel Langholz	Our Saviour's, Bellingham	12/10/2011
Ordinations		
Caralyn Holmquist	Helena, Montana	11/16/2011
Krista Mendoza	Maple Leaf, Seattle	10/15/2011
Transfers In/Out Of Synod		
Terrie Rae Anderson	From Southwestern Washington Synod	10/20/2011
John Clauson	To Southwestern Washington Synod	10/19/2011
Drahomir Oslik	To Lower Susquehanna Synod	10/1/2011
Lydia Wittman Grebe	To New England Synod	10/1/2011
Joel Langholz	From Southwestern Minnesota Synod	10/25/2011
Ronald Melver	From Oregon Synod	10/25/2011

continued from page 11

Here 'n There

■ *Read the Qur'an in Four Weeks*—Check out this unique class with **Pastor Ron Marshall** (First of West Seattle, www.flcws.org), who has been teaching it four times a year since 2003. Classes are from 7-9 p.m., January 5, 12, 19, 26. The $50 fee includes your own approved translation of the Qur'an, plus many handouts on the Qur'an by Islamic scholars. To register or make inquiries, contact Pastor Marshall at 206-935-6530; deogloria@foxinternet.com.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

You can check for the most recent updates on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/transitions.

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	P	Supply
Bellevue, Grace	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Burien, Glendale	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Custer, Zion	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Michael Ross, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	TR	Dick Christianson, Interim
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Bethany	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	P	Doug Stensby, Interim
Shoreline, Bethel	PR	NV	Dick Wendt, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply
Woodinville, Wooden Cross	PR	TR	Paul Anderson, Interim

Mobility Position Key:

PR	= Pastor
A	= Associate
AIM	= Associate in Ministry
DM	= Diaconal Minister
A/SP	= Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I	= Interviewing
C	= Calling
NV	= New Vacancy
V	= Vacancy
SC	= Synod Call
TR	= Transition process
P	= Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO	= Div for Outreach Transformation Process